

ANARCHISM AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The Russian revolution of October 1917 was a defining point for socialism. What was the role of the Bolsheviks in destroying workers democracy and creating Stalinism? Was there an anarchist alternative to both Leninism and the return of Czarism?

ARTICLES FROM THE [WSM](#)



[Looking back at Red October](#)

80 years on the Russian revolution is still a source of inspiration

[Freedom & Revolution](#)

Does the end justify the means? Many on the left believe so. In this major article **Aileen O'Carroll** argues that the means used play a part in creating the end that is achieved. The best example of this is the Russian Revolution of 1917.

- this article in [Turkish](#)
- this article in [Dutch](#)

[Workers self-management in the Russian revolution](#)

Factory Committees began to appear in Russia from March 1917 onwards. At first they struggled to limit the control of the bosses and they took up issues such as the eight hour day. The committees soon began to become more adventurous and began to speak of actively running of the factories

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[Beware the Bolsheviks](#)

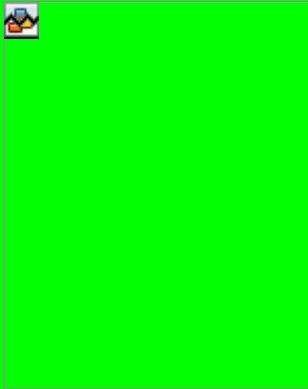

Bolshevik modes of organisation have particular outcomes, the centralisation of power. This sort of organisation means that 'Stalin didn't fall from the moon' but was the inheritor of this undemocratic organisation.

[A fresh look at Lenin](#)

Lenin knew too much about socialism to simply drop all talk of workers eventually running the economy. As he once said "The liberation of the workers can be achieved only by the workers' own efforts".. He was too little of one to actually allow them to do so.

[The Life, Times & Confessions of Victor Serge](#)

One time anarchist Victor Serge joined the Bolsheviks in 1918 and is often quoted by Leninists today to justify their repression of the left. **Dermot Sreenan** looks at his later writings and finds a Serge unhappy with many aspects of Bolshevik rule but unable to break with them because of the apparent success of the Russian Revolution.



News of Anarchism in Ireland

The [Ainriail](#) mailing list carries the latest news from the WSM and the struggles anarchists are involved in. There are **never** more than 8 posts a week (and normally only 2-4).

[More details!](#)

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[How Lenin led to Stalin](#)

Points that many would consider characteristic of Stalinism include, the creation of a one party state, no control by the working class of the economy, the dictatorial rule of individuals over the mass of society, the brutal crushing of all workers' action and the use of slander and historical distortion against other left groups. How many of these policies came into effect under Lenin?

Review: [The Russian Tragedy](#)

This book is a must for anyone who is confused as to why the Russian Revolution went wrong, for anyone who feels that to explain the aberrations

and atrocities perpetrated by the Bolsheviks as necessitated by imperialist blockades or 'objective circumstances'

[In defence of the Truth](#)

One of the most detailed responses to the anarchists critique of Bolshevism was published in the winter issue of International Socialism. Unfortunately the article fails to seriously address the criticisms of Lenin, preferring instead to repeat more sophisticated versions of old slanders and distortions.



[The Makhnovist army?](#)

AS ANARCHISTS believe the bosses will resist a revolution, it follows that we accept the need for armed force to defend the revolution. But anarchists also oppose militarism

Review:

[History of the Makhnovist Movement](#)

It may seem strange that the Revolutionary Insurgent Army of the Ukraine is constantly referred to as the "Makhnovists". Anarchists are the last people to engage in blind hero-worship. At its height it had 30,000 volunteer combatants under arms. While all were inspired by anarchist ideas, only a small minority had worked-out anarchist views.

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[The Russian Revolution](#)

Article circulated at Marxism '97

[Defending the Bolsheviks or defending the truth?](#)

A privately circulated reply to a piece by the IWG answering Anarchist criticisms of the Bolsheviks

[The Two Octobers by Piotr Archinov](#)

Reprint of the 1926 essay by an anarchist veteran of the revolution

PDF file of pamphlet [Stalin didn't fall from the moon](#)

POSITION PAPER

- [State Capitalism in Russia](#)

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The international 'Anarchist Platform'

We invite you to look at the '[Anarchist Platform](#)' points and if you agree with them to subscribe to this international anarchist mailing list

Read the '[Anarchist Platform](#)'

Talks by WSM members

[The Russian Revolution](#)

The Russian revolution has been a subject of key importance to anarchists for two reasons. The first reason is that for the first time in history a working class revolution succeeded in ousting the old ruling classes. The second reason is that after the old ruling class was ousted a new class came to power. Those of us who want to make a revolution to-day must understand where the successes and failures of the past came from.

[Factory committees in the Russian Revolution](#)

The factory committees appeared in Petrograd and Moscow around February/March of 1917, and quickly spread. Elected directly by the workers in each enterprise, they appear initially to have formed in a response to threatened closures, and to press for the 8-hour day, though the scope of their demands would soon extend.

[Four October Myths](#)

Here I am going to look at four myths, widely accepted by the left and right alike on the October revolution and its aftermath

[The Cheka during the Russian revolution](#)

Was the Cheka integral to Lenin's doctrine or did it arrive by chance?

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[Anarchism and Marxism](#)

A lot of people who call themselves anarchists will probably be extremely annoyed when I say that the most striking thing is how much we have in common with Marxism. Both anarchists and Marxists are materialists. Both believe that the ideas in peoples' heads are shaped by the social and economic conditions in which we live.

- This article in [Turkish](#)
- This article in [Dutch](#)

[Cuba..socialist paradise or Castro's fiefdom?](#)

Cuba, about 90 miles off the coast of North America, is the largest of the Caribbean islands. The social services are in a far better condition than they are in other Latin American countries. Virtually every Cuban under the age of 30 can read and write. But the cost of these benefits is high for the working class who have never been in the saddle of power in Cuba.

[Coups in Russia; Anarchists banned](#)

As we go to press the 'coup' in Moscow has just ended, although the question of whose coup it was still seems open. In any case it was no more than an argument between two equally undemocratic wings of the ruling class.

[Revolutionary Veteran speaks at Bulgarian anarchist conference](#)

Report on the 8th Congress of the Bulgarian anarchist federation

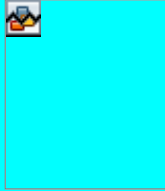

[Anarchists in Russia's far east](#)

The [Socialist Workers Party](#) & Socialism from Below

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